

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are pending.

Claims 16 - 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Volk (U.S. Patent No. 4,721,378). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested. As evidenced by the attached Rule 132 Affidavit, the value of f_1/f is not 4.339 as asserted by the Examiner in the Office Action, but is instead 1.0. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Volk does not anticipate claims 16 - 20.

Claims 1, 3, 16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiya et al. (5,828,498) in view of Noda (6,259,570). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested. As evidenced by the same attached Rule 132 Affidavit discussed above, the value of f_1/f for the Third Embodiment of Sekiya et al. (see the construction values listed in Table 3 thereof) is not 4.339 (as asserted by the Examiner), but is instead -16.807. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Sekiya et al in view of Noda does not make obvious base claims 1 and 16 (which each require that the condition " $1.0 < f_1/f < 5.0$ " be satisfied) or claims 3 and 19 which depend from claims 1 and 16, respectively, and thus also include this limitation by reason of the dependency of these claims.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating the allowability of claims 2 and 4 - 15. However, for the reasons as noted above, the undersigned has deferred rewriting these claims in independent form at this time.

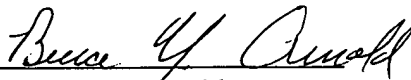
Having provided a Rule 132 affidavit, attached, which evidences that the Examiner's values as listed in the Office Action (of $f_1/f = 4.339$) for the lens shown in Figs. 4 and 5 in Volk and for the lens of the Third Embodiment of Sekiya et al. (i.e. for the construction values listed in Table 3 of Sekiya et al.) are not correct, and having pointed out the manner in which claims 1, 3 and 16 - 20 patentably distinguish over the prior art of record, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be withdrawn.

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Further, unless more pertinent prior art is found by the Examiner, an early Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Rule 132 Affidavit of Bruce Y. Arnold